GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:614
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
RELEASE AND UTILISATION OF CRF AND NCCF
Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the assistance extended by the Government to calamity affected States under the Disaster Management Programme during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the details of requests made by States under the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and the present status of utilisation, State-wise during the said period;

(c) the criteria for declaring a calamity as `Calamity of severe nature` and the pattern of assistance granted by the Government upon such declaration;

(d) whether such criteria are not applicable in respect of the current year flood and erosion in Assam; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SMT. RADHIKA V. SELVI)

(a) & (b): A Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted with an allocated amount for each State based on the Award of the 12th Finance Commission for the period 2005-10, which is contributed by the Government of India and the State Government in the ratio of 3:1. The State Governments are required to meet the expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims of notified natural calamities viz. avalanches, cyclone, cloud burst, drought, earthquake/ Tsunami, fire, flood, hailstorm, landslides and pest attacks, as per the approved norms and items of assistance from the CRF. In the event of a calamity of a severe nature, in which the requirement of funds for relief operations is beyond the funds available in the States CRF account, additional Central assistance is also considered from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), after following the laid down procedure.A statement showing the State-wise details of allocation & releases of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) during the years 2005-06 to 2008-09 is at Annexure-I.

A statement showing the additional financial assistance sought by the States from NCCF and assistance provided by the Government of India after following the laid down procedure during the years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 (till date) is at Annexure-II.

A statement showing State wise status of balance funds available in the CRF account during the years 2005-06 to 2007-08, as per information received from the State AGs, is at Annexure-III.

(c) to (e): With regard to criteria for declaring a calamity as a calamity of severe nature, it is mentioned that successive Finance Commissions did not specify any criteria for declaring calamities of rare severity on the ground that any definition would be beset with insurmountable difficulties, and was likely to be counter productive, and that it should be assessed on a case to case basis by taking in account, inter alia, the intensity and magnitude of calamity, level of relief assistance needed, capacity of the State to tackle the problem, the alternatives and flexibility available within the Plans to provide succor and relief, etc. The Scheme for constitution and Administration of National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), formulated by Ministry of Finance, based on the recommendations of the 12th Finance Commission, provides that MHA will assess, upon a request made by a State not having adequate balance in their CRF, whether the State will require additional assistance from NCCF to provide relief in any specific case of a calamity of a severe nature and thereafter assistance from NCCF is provided as per the laid down procedure.

The above procedure is being adopted uniformly in respect of all the States including Assam, while considering the requests for additional assistance from NCCF.